

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-12, and 15-32 are presently pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-12, 15-28 have been amended to clarify certain features of these claims to expedite prosecution of this application, and without prejudice to pursuing these claims in unamended or other forms in a continuation or other application. Claims 9, 13, and 14 have been canceled, and new claims 29-32 have been added in this response.

In the October 31, 2007, Office Action, claims 1, 2 and 4-28 were rejected. More specifically, the status of the application in light of this Office Action is as follows:

- (A) Figure 6 was objected to;
- (B) The disclosure was objected to because of an informality;
- (C) Claims 1-2, 4-8, and 11-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the combination of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art ("AAPA") and U.S. Patent No. 5,535,021 to Chiang et al. ("Chiang"); and
- (D) Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the combination of AAPA, Chiang, and U.S. Patent No. 6,864,998 to Kito et al. ("Kito").

The undersigned attorney and his colleague, Cameron Pilling, wish to thank the Examiner for engaging in a telephone conference on January 2, 2008, to discuss the present Office Action, the Chiang and Kito references, and the pending claims. The applicants request that this paper constitute the applicants' Interview Summary. If the Examiner notices any deficiencies in this regard, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney to correct such deficiencies.

The following remarks summarize and expand upon the results of the January 2nd telephone conference, and they also reflect the agreements reached between the undersigned attorney and the Examiner during the telephone conference. For example, the following remarks reflect the Examiner's acknowledgement that the

combination of Chiang and Kito cannot support a Section 103 rejection of amended claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom.

A. Response to the Objection to Figure 6 and Amendments to the Specification

Figure 6 was objected to as failing to show the spreading plate 332 positioned between the lamp 330 and the reflective plate 331, as described on page 6 at lines 3-6 of the specification. The applicants respectfully submit that the location of the spreading plate 332 was incorrectly described in the specification of the originally-filed application as being between the lamp 330 and the reflective plate 331. Rather, the spreading plate 332 is positioned proximate to the lamp 330, as correctly illustrated in the originally filed Figure 6 (as well as in Figures 4A and 5A). More specifically, as illustrated in these Figures, the spreading plate 332 is positioned between the lamp 330 and the protective plate 333 such that the spreading plate 332 partially covers the lamp 330. The specification has been amended on page 6, line 3 of the first full paragraph, to correctly describe that the spreading plate 332 is proximate to the lamp 330 and the reflective plate 331, and that the reflective plate covers the lamp 330. As discussed during the January 2 telephone conference, Line 3 of the first full paragraph on page 6 has also been amended to clarify that Figure 6 is an isometric exploded bottom view. Accordingly, the amended specification describes the position of the spreading plate 332 as shown in the originally-filed Figures. Therefore, the objection to Figure 6 should be withdrawn.

B. Response to the Objection to the Specification

The specification was objected to because of a minor informality. On page 1, line 11 of the third paragraph, the lamp 130 is incorrectly referred to as lamp 131. This informality has been corrected per the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, the objection to the disclosure should be withdrawn.

Other minor typographical errors have also been corrected with amendments to the specification, as shown above in the Amendments to the Specification section of this response. For example, minor typographical errors have been corrected in the third

paragraph on page 1, the first, second, and third full paragraphs on page 2, the third paragraph on page 5, and the first full paragraph on page 6 of the specification.

C. Response to the Section 103(a) Rejection of Claims 1-2, 4-8, and 11-28

Claims 1-2, 4-8, and 11-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the combination of AAPA and Chiang. Claims 13 and 14 have been canceled and, accordingly, the rejection of these claims is now moot. As stated above, the Examiner acknowledged during the January 2nd telephone conference that the combination of AAPA and Chiang cannot support a Section 103 rejection of claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom (claims 2, 4-8, 11, and 12). Accordingly, in light of this agreement, the Section 103(a) rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-8, and 10-12 should be withdrawn.

Independent claims 15, 20, and 27 include several features generally similar to those of claim 1 (e.g., features related to a spreading plate having a plurality of perforations or openings therethrough). Accordingly, the Section 103(a) rejection of claims 15, 20, and 27 should be withdrawn for at least the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 1, and for the additional features of these claims.

Claims 16-19 depend from base claim 15, claims 21-26 depend from base claim 20, and claim 28 depends from base claim 27. Accordingly, the Section 103(a) rejection of claims 16-19, 21-26, and 28 should be withdrawn for at least the reasons discussed above with reference to their respective base claims, and for the additional features of these dependent claims.

D. Response to the Section 103(a) Rejection of claims 9 and 10

Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the combination of AAPA, Chiang, and Kito. Claim 9 has been canceled and, accordingly, the rejection of claim 9 is now moot. Claim 10 depends from base claim 1. Accordingly, the Section 103(a) rejection of claim 10 should be withdrawn for at least the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 1, and for the additional features of this dependent claim.

E. New Claims 29-32


New claims 29-32 have been added to the present application. The subject matter of these claim is supported by the Figures and text of the original application. Therefore, these claims do not add any new matter to the application and are fully supported under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. New independent claim 31, for example, includes several features similar to those of claim 1 (e.g., means for distributing light including a plurality of openings). Accordingly, claim 31 is patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 1, and for the additional features of this claim.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the pending claims comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are patentable over the applied art. The applicants accordingly request reconsideration of the application and a mailing of a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Aaron Poledna at (206) 359-3982.

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Respectfully submitted,

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